

Workforce News



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Wasatch Front North: Davis, Morgan, Weber

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The American Community Survey (ACS) – 2008 Update is out for Davis and Weber Counties



Inside:

- › **Davis:** Job losses slowing but unemployment is significantly.
- › **Morgan:** Joblessness doubles as employment shrinks slowly.
- › **Weber:** Big time job losses continue as unemployment jumps by 3 full points.



Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

John Mathews
801-526-9467
johnmathews@utah.gov

So what's the ACS? It's an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that takes a statistical portrait of the characteristics of the population of an area. The ACS actually compliments the 10-year census, or should we say the 10-year census supplements the ACS? Starting with the 2010 Census, there will no longer be a "long form" distributed to a random sample of U.S. households asking extensive

economic and demographic questions. The yearly ACS replaces the long form as the supplement to the decennial complete count.

The Census form you get in April of 2010 will be short and sweet with only 10 questions for each person in the household. The topics include type of housing you live in, number of people living there, and age, race, and sex of each person.

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American Community Survey (continued)

So where does all that detailed characteristic information on social, economic, housing, and demography come from? It comes from the sample of individuals in the ACS. Topics in the ACS cover education, marital status, fertility, place of birth citizenship, year of entry into the county, language spoken at home, disability status, income, employment status, occupation, industry, commuting, housing, age, race, Hispanic origin, and others. The sample collects the detail of characteristic data, not the Census.

The ACS and Geography

Because the ACS is a sample survey, it does not provide data for all areas every year. Currently, only those areas (counties in this case) with populations of 65,000 or more are surveyed for release of annual data. In Utah there are only six counties that meet this criterion: Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Weber.

For smaller counties—those with 20,000 populations—the ACS provides a 3-year average. The most current release of data for counties of this size covered the years 2006 to 2008. Starting in 2010, estimates will be provided for areas with less than 20,000 and will be based on a 5-year average of 2005-2009. As the survey matures, more and more geographic detail will become available. For 2009, the annual

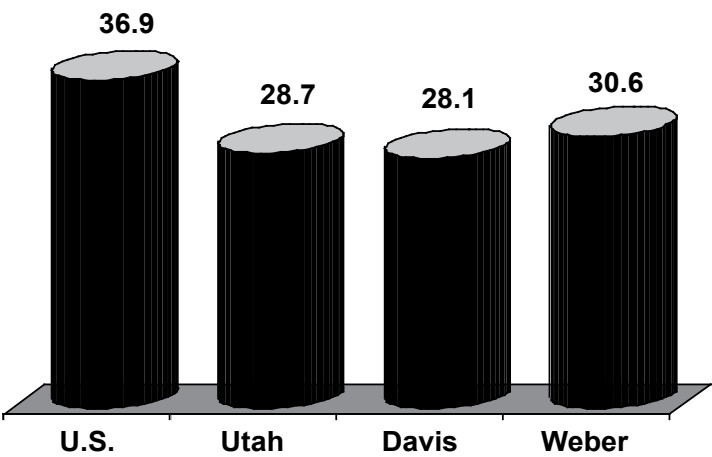
2008 data is available for Davis and Weber counties only in the Wasatch North Region.

Davis and Weber Counties

Median Age

Big differences in the median age of the population were evident in
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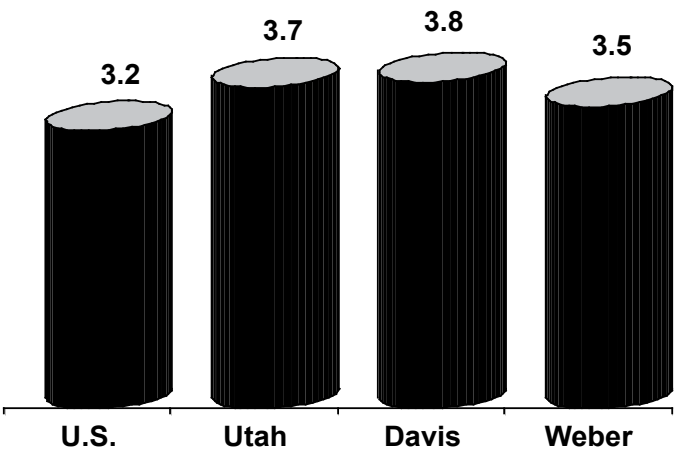
2008 Median Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

2008 Family Size

Number of Persons



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

American Community Survey (continued)

the data. The median age nationally in 2008 was 36.9 years. In Davis County the median age was 28.1 years, almost 10 years younger than the nation. Weber County's median age of 30.6 years was a couple of years older than Davis County's, but still much younger than the nation. The state median age was the lowest in the nation at 28.7 years.

Family Size

The persons in these counties reside in households or families. A family is a sub-set of households. The average family size in 2008 was 3.76 persons in Davis County and 3.48 persons in Weber County. In Utah the average family size was 3.67. Both of these measures are larger in comparison to the state and the nation. Average family size in the U.S. is 2.62 persons, a third smaller than families in Utah.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment, as measured by the percent of persons age 25 or older with a high school diploma or higher, was 95.0 percent in Davis County which was significantly higher than Weber County (88.7 percent), the state (90.4 percent), and the nation (85.0 percent). In terms of higher education, the percent of persons aged 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree in Davis County was 32.4 percent. For Weber County that percentage was ten points lower at 21.7. That compares to the state rate of 29.1

percent and the national rate of just 27.7 percent.

Median Family Income

On the economic front, median family income for Davis County and Weber County was \$74,127 and \$58,536, respectively. The state figure was \$65,226, which was

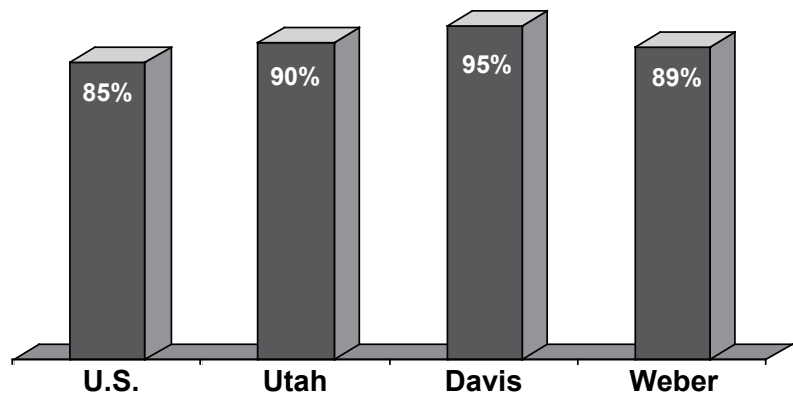
about \$7,000 above Weber County and \$9,000 below Davis County. The national level was \$63,366.

Median Earnings and Gender

Median earnings for workers in 2008 were \$28,751 for Davis County and \$26,959 for Weber County.

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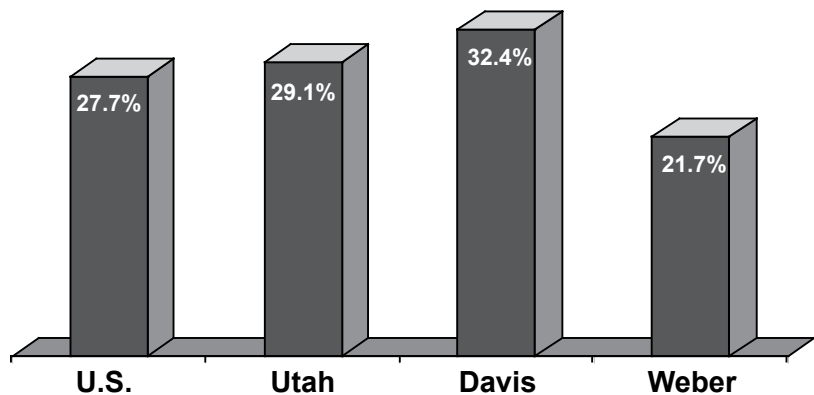
Adults* With at Least a High School Diploma 2008



* Population 25 years and older.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

Adults* With at Least a Bachelor's Degree 2008



* Population 25 years and older.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

American Community Survey (continued)

Both of these counties' earnings were above the \$26,226 level of the state but below the \$29,868 figure for the nation. Earnings by gender for full-time year-round workers revealed that female workers made 66 percent of what men did in Davis County and 68 percent of male earnings in Weber County. This was about the same as the 69 percent figure for the state but measurably below the 78 percent level for the nation.

Ethnic Diversity

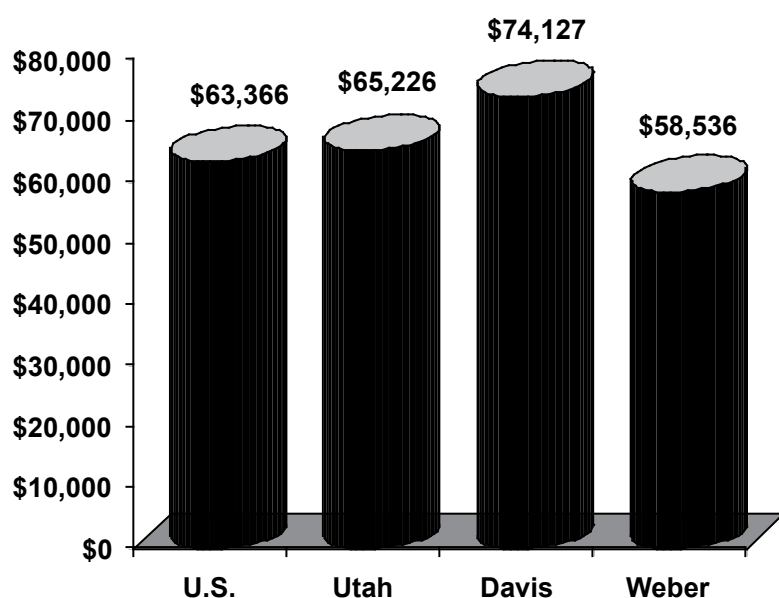
Utah is becoming more ethnically diverse. In 2008, whites accounted for exactly three-fourths of the U.S. population. In Utah, 91 percent were white, and in Davis County 92 percent were white. Weber County's

percent of population that is white was 93 percent. The largest and fastest-growing racial/ethnic group is Hispanic. Over 15 percent of the 304 million persons in the U.S. are Hispanic. That percentage for Utah is about 12 percent. In Davis County, 7.6 percent of the population is Hispanic, and 16 percent of Weber County's population listed as Hispanic.

This has been just a quick snapshot of the ACS Survey. Much more data is available. **WEN**

To explore more about the American Community Survey go to the Census ACS website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>

2008 Median Family Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

What's Up?

"Alliant Techsystems' presence in Utah has remained steadfast over the years, even as its employee count ebbed and flowed with the availability of federal space and defense contracts. The company recently handed pink slips to 550 of its Utah employees. The action was the result of reduced spending by the federal government on space and defense programs that are about to run their course -- the Space Shuttle and the Minuteman III missile."

—Salt Lake Tribune

"Ogden City expects to announce an agreement with one or more companies to establish retail outlet operations in three vacant buildings on the east side of Washington Boulevard. The companies the city is negotiating with would occupy portions of buildings at 2314, 2318 and 2326 Washington Boulevard. The outlet operation would sell brand-name overstocked and scratch-and-dent specialty items that could include clothing, furniture and other goods."

—Standard Examiner

County News

Davis County News

Unemployment continues to increase right along with job losses in the recessionary economy. Joblessness in September was at 5.8 percent, much higher than the 3.2 figure of a year ago. The economy shed 4,000 jobs between June 2008 and June 2009, lowering total non-farm jobs to 101,900. Nearly half of the drop was in construction which fell by 20.3 percent. Manufacturing was off 10.1 percent, or down 1,000 positions. Wholesale and retail trade combined lost 1,000 slots. Business services had 900 fewer persons on payrolls. Only healthcare and federal and local government actually added jobs in the year-over comparison. Healthcare increased by 500, federal government was up by 460, and local government increased by 175. Spending in the county for the second quarter was down by 7.6 percent as consumers curtailed purchases. Construction valuation was also off by 23.7 percent, but newly permitted dwelling units showed a less-than-one percent decrease. The rate of job losses slowed during the second quarter. Hopefully that's a sign that the recession is bottoming out.

Morgan County News

The unemployment rate has nearly doubled, and some job losses have impacted the county. September 2009's jobless rate was 5.5 percent, up from 2.9 percent a year ago. The economy lost jobs at a meager 2.9 percent pace comparing June 2009 to June 2008, a net loss of some 60 jobs. Construction shed 100 positions. That was somewhat offset by 20 additions in business services and 50 in healthcare. Spending in the county in second quarter 2009 was down slightly, at -0.7 percent from a year ago. Much of the consumption spending of residents in Morgan County happens outside the county. Construction activity was well off the pace of last year. For the first eight months of 2009, the number of permitted dwelling units was down by two-thirds and the valuation of construction was off 72 percent. Morgan County is not alone in feeling the effects of the recession.

Weber County News

Job losses continued to accelerate during second quarter 2009 resulting in unemployment increasing markedly. Through the April to June period, the rate of job loss deepened, from -4.8 percent to -5.3 percent. June employment counts were down over 5,000 jobs from June of 2008. Total employment declined from about 96,400 to 91,400. Major job losses occurred in construction (-1,190), manufacturing (-1,320), retail trade (-830) business services (-1520), and state government (-180). Only healthcare (180) and federal and local government added employment. Spending was off 5.7 percent through the first half of 2009 compared to 2008, reflecting the perceptions of the public about the future. Along with spending declining, construction activity was off by more than half both in the number of permitted dwelling units and in total valuation. The recession's grip continues to hold strongly to Weber County's economy. **WFN**

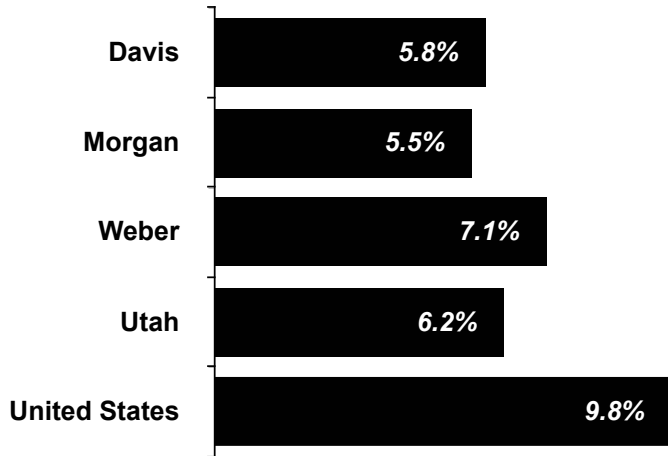
For more info:

For more employment information about your county go to:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/countyinfo>

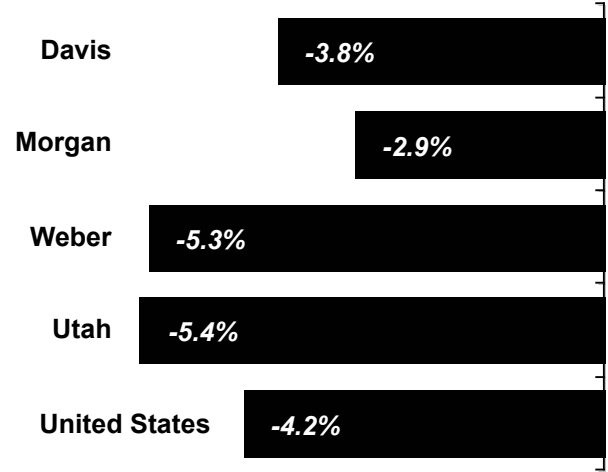
and select your county, then go to **Labor Market Indicators** in the right-hand margin.

**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
September 2009**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs
June 2008 to June 2009**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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